



Attention Physicians!

Effective October 1, 2006, Medicare will only generate the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant remittance advice – transaction 835 version 004010A1 – to all electronic remittance advice receivers. For more details, see MLN Matters article SE0656 at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0656.pdf>.

MLN Matters Number: MM5258

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5258

Related CR Release Date: September 15, 2006

Effective Date: October 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: R1056CP

Implementation Date: October 2, 2006

Quarterly Update to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits, Version 12.3, Effective October 1, 2006

Provider Types Affected

Physicians billing Medicare carriers

Background

This article and related CR 5258 provide a reminder for physicians to take note of the quarterly updates to the coding initiatives. The next round of CCI edits will be effective on October 1, 2006. Physicians may view the current CCI edits and the current Mutually Exclusive Code (MEC) edits at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) web site. The web site will be updated with the Version 12.3 edits as soon as they are effective.

Key Points

The National Correct Coding Initiative developed by CMS helps promote national correct coding methodologies and controls improper coding. The coding policies developed are based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) manual, national and local policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, analysis of standard medical and surgical practice, and review of current coding practice. The

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latest package of CCI edits, Version 12.3, is effective on October 1, 2006. This version will include all previous versions and updates from January 1, 1996 to the present and will be organized in two tables:

- Column 1/Column 2 Correct Coding Edits table; and
- MEC Edits table.

Implementation

The implementation date for this instruction is October 2, 2006.

Additional Information

The CCI and MEC file formats will be maintained in the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Publication 100-04), Chapter 23, Section 20.9, which can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals/IOM/list.asp#TopOfPage> on the CMS web site.

Flu Shot Reminder

September is the perfect time to start talking with your patients about getting the flu shot. Medicare provides coverage for the flu vaccine and its administration. Please encourage your Medicare patients to take advantage of this vital benefit. And don't forget – health care professionals and their staff benefit from the flu vaccine also. **Protect Yourself. Protect Your Patients. Get Your Flu Shot.**

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